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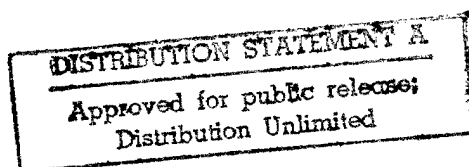
JPRS 83804

30 June 1983

Worldwide Report

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

No. 404



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WORLDWIDE AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

FINNISH, SOVIET BALTIC STUDY—Finnish and Soviet researchers have investigated air quality for 5 weeks in the Baltic. The Meteorological Institute reports that the observations made on the Soviet research ship, "Akademik Shuleykin," are an attempt to determine the size of the material burden that has been placed on the Baltic and collect data on the amounts of impurities contained in discharges from distant sources. The research ship is scheduled to arrive in Helsinki on Monday. The trip is in connection with Finnish-Soviet scientific-technical cooperation. Finnish experts from the Meteorological Institute and the State Technical Research Center are participating in it. [Text]
[Helsinki HELSINGIN SANOMAT in Finnish 18 May 83 p 19] 11466

CSO: 5000/2577

NEWPORT POLLUTION ASSESSED AS SEC WRANGLES WITH EPA

Study of Newport Emissions

Melbourne THE AGE in English 29 Apr 83 p 3

[Excerpt] The Newport Power Station has negligible effect on Melbourne air pollution according to a two-year, \$2 million study carried out for the State Government.

The study, which is at the centre of a row between the Environment Protection Authority and the State Electricity Commission, comes after a decade of controversy about the station. The SEC has paid for the study and the EPA claims it is behind on payment.

The consultants, Form and Substance Inc, play down the importance of Newport in their report. They say that cars and trucks emit 20 times as much of the most important pollutants--nitrogen oxides and ozone--as Newport.

The study, a copy of which has been given to THE AGE, shows that during summer, emissions from Newport can result in an increase in the ground level concentration of nitrogen oxides of one to two parts per hundred million (pphm). The Environment Protection Authority has set 15 pphm as an acceptable level for Melbourne air.

Sources within the EPA said that the report was making only tentative conclusions about air pollution. The study has been plagued by delays in staff appointments and a lack of data of the state of the air.

Surprisingly, computer predictions and measurements taken during the study found that Newport emissions actually reduced the concentration of ozone downwind of the station by 1-2 pphm. This is because of complex chemical interactions with the atmosphere and ingredients of the Newport emissions.

"The above two conclusions must, however, be tempered by the deficiencies in the available air quality data," the study said. "A number of caveats are appropriate."

The study was unable to draw conclusions on Newport's impact on winter pollution.

"The end results...all point to the conclusion that air emissions from Newport D do not have a deleterious impact on either nitrogen oxides or ozone, at least during the photochemically active summer season," the report said.

SEC Funding of Pollution Studies

Melbourne THE AGE in English 6 May 83 p 7

[Article by Peter Roberts]

[Text]

The State Electricity Commission will continue to pay for a major study of Melbourne air pollution for at least two years.

The Minister for Conservation, Mr Walker, told Parliament yesterday that the SEC's contribution to the study, which is part of its obligations arising from the building of the Newport power station, would then be reviewed.

"At that time amendments to the State Electricity Commission (Newport Power Station) Act, will be proposed should they be necessary," Mr Walker said.

The act requires the SEC to follow the recommendations of the Newport Review Panel which in 1977 worked out a compromise between the SEC and unionists and environmentalists opposed to the station. One recommendation was that the SEC finance a study by the Environment Protection Authority of Melbourne air pollution for 15 years.

"There have been recent suggestions that the SEC have sought to avoid payment of the costs of the study," Mr Walker said. "Whilst the commission has had reservations about some aspects of the

study, it has never expressed any concern about making the payments."

Mr Walker released a consultant's report on Newport which tentatively suggests the power station is a negligible source of air pollution and a commentary on the report by a specialist advisory group headed by Dr Brian Tucker of the CSIRO.

The advisory group recommended nitrogen dioxide pollution from Newport, and a further two years work to verify the computer prediction system of the station's effect on ozone pollution. The study found that ozone pollution, particularly in the western suburbs, was worse than had previously been known.

The 10 ozone monitoring stations operating in 1981-82 detected 15 days when ozone levels were higher than the acceptable level. This is twice the number detected by the four station network of previous years.

The advisory committee criticised delays in obtaining a computer to perform pollution prediction work, delays in establishing a network of pollution monitoring stations and delays in appointing scientific staff to the EPA to assist the consultant's study.

CSO: 5000/7582

LEAD POISONING OF CHILDREN REPORTED IN SA CITY

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 7 May 83 p 7

[Text] ADELAIDE. — Up to a dozen children in the lead-smelting city of Port Pirie have been treated for lead poisoning in the past year, according to the South Australian Health Minister, Dr John Cornwall.

He has announced the setting up of a task force to examine ways of dealing with lead pollution in the town.

The treated children had blood-lead levels of up to 60 micrograms of lead per 100 millilitres of blood, Dr Cornwall said. The accepted "level of concern" was 30 micrograms and 60 micrograms was seen as the danger level.

The children had been treated at the Adelaide Children's Hospital by the chelation process, which forced the body to secrete metals.

Port Pirie has had lead-smelting industry since the 1880s, and the Broken Hill Associated Smelters Pty Ltd smelter is claimed to be the world's largest.

More than 100,000 tonnes of lead had been dumped on the surrounding area over the years, Dr Cornwall said, and the lead stayed in the soil.

"These problems can be alleviated; they cannot be eliminated," he said.

In the very long term it might be necessary to re-house up to 150 families in the Simontown and Port Pirie West districts, which had received the greatest amount of pollution because they were in the path of the prevailing winds from the smelter.

Dr Cornwall said he had preliminary talks with the company, but it would not agree to pay any compensation.

Compensation would now be a matter for the courts, but the Government had not yet considered any proposal to take court action against the company.

At a news conference to announce the setting up of the task force, Dr Cornwall disagreed several times with Port Pirie's mayor, Mr Bill Jones, on the size of the problem.

Mr Jones, a corporate relations officer with Broken Hill Associated Smelters until his retirement last November, said no one from the town was seriously ill from lead poisoning "at this time."

The children who had been hospitalised had been simply treated by the chelation process, he said.

"There is no question that there is a problem," Mr Jones said, "but the problem is being greatly diminished."

The company had spent \$38 million in the past 10 years on controlling pollution, he said. The smelter's 206-metre high stack meant the dust from the smelter was now carried away from the city.

Dr Cornwall said the task force, to consist of five Health Commission experts and one or two nominees from the local Board of Health, would draw up recommendations for short and long-term action.

Publicity would be given to the need for cleanliness and hygiene as a way of avoiding the health risk from lead.

A survey of 97 Port Pirie children with relatively high blood-lead levels had shown they shared one or more characteristics, said Dr Cornwall.

They tended to live in houses with flaking paint and holes in the ceiling, high lead levels in the soil and exposed dirt around the house.

They also tended to be junior members of large families, eat their lunch at home on school days and be prone to biting their nails or placing toys and other objects in their mouths.

The children surveyed also tended to have members of their household who worked with lead at the Broken Hill Association Smelters or elsewhere.

CSO: 5000/7581

LEGISLATION SAID NEEDED 'URGENTLY' TO HALT SOIL EROSION

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 27 Apr 83 p 4

[Article by Tony Koch]

[Text]

URGENT legislation will have to be introduced to force Queensland landholders to exercise soil conservation measures, or many agricultural areas will soon be degraded beyond repair.

In some cane and grain areas soil loss has been so massive that land has been abandoned for viable production or is fast approaching the end of its productive life.

This conclusion was reached by a top-level committee appointed by the Primary Industries Minister, Mr Ahern, in November, 1981, to investigate the extent and control of soil erosion.

The committee was chaired by Queensland Graingrowers Association president, Mr Don Eather, and included rural production representatives and State Government advisers.

It cited one area around Childers, where 80 years of cane growing had led to so much erosion that farmers and their cane assignments had to be resettled elsewhere. Some 1000 ha of that damaged land now lies idle.

The committee was asked to recommend control and prevention of soil erosion throughout the State; examine the role of local authorities in leading the way in erosion control measures; recommend educational approaches to inform the public of the seriousness of the situation.

The committee's report, released this week by Mr Ahern, said: "Soil erosion in Queensland has reached very serious

proportions. Irreversible damage has occurred and continues to take place over much of the agricultural areas of the state.

"Society, through governments, needs to make a significant contribution if erosion is to be controlled within a reasonable time.

"The committee believes that attempts should be made to achieve this in arable areas by the year 2000. Soil conservation must therefore be given a high priority for government initiatives.

"Landholders are endeavoring to put soil conservation into effect on their properties but have been hampered in one way or another by not having access to resources of technical assistance, planning and finance."

The committee recommended that a new Soil Conservation Authority be created to formulate a policy of soil erosion prevention and control throughout the State.

It further recommended that legislation should ensure that all soil conservation works are built to set specifications and that power to enforce the co-operation of landholders should be available as a last resort.

In line with educating the community on erosion issues, the committee recommended that school children be taught about the subject in a simple way and that tertiary colleges and universities make soil conservation an essential part of all courses which relate to agriculture.

Its final recommendation was that the Commonwealth Government "treat conservation of its national asset by financial assistance and increased taxation concessions".

Mr Eather reported that soil erosion in Queensland began when the large areas of native vegetation were cleared by early settlers.

"The management systems which Europeans brought with them were not appropriate for the environment, and often irreversible damage has occurred," he reported.

"It has taken our cultivation methods only a short time to put much of the State's potential for food production in jeopardy.

"On the Darling Downs, some 10,000 ha — in excess of one percent of the total cropping area, has been retired from cropping because of degradation.

"Millions of dollars is wasted each year in Queensland rebuilding fences, roads and buildings while the cost of the insidious damage to rivers, dams and harbors by siltation can never be accurately determined.

"Clearing, cultivation and grazing in the brigalow areas has caused such soil loss that the mouth of the Fitzroy River is now grossly silted and extensive deposits of brown brigalow soils can clearly be seen at low tide.

"The task of the Soil Conservation Branch staff is quite impossible with existing resources. Of the estimated 12

million ha available for cultivation in Queensland, 2.8 million ha are presently cultivated and 2.3 million of these are estimated to be prone to erosion almost entirely from water flow.

"Yet, only about one third of this area is protected by conservation measures."

The report found annual soil losses by erosion "alarming, and cited examples of 50 tonnes/ha at Greenmount on the Darling Downs, 80 to 150 tonnes/ha at Nambour, 250 tonnes/ha at Mackay and over 300 tonnes/ha at Innisfail.

The committee concluded: Queensland cannot afford losses of this magnitude and the long term future for the State's agriculture is grim unless steps are taken immediately to slow degradation.

CSO: 5000/7581

CANBERRA ACTS TO STIFFEN FIGHT AGAINST TASMANIAN DAM

Support from West

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 27 Apr 83 p 1

[Article by Graeme Atherton]

[Text]

THE WA Government supports Commonwealth action to stop the Franklin dam but will not intervene in the High Court case.

The Attorney-General, Mr Berinson, outlined the Government's position yesterday before leaving for the Australian Constitutional Convention in Adelaide.

He said that national and international obligations justified Commonwealth action in some areas that would otherwise be exclusive to the States.

"In the WA Government's view proposals to mine the Great Barrier Reef, for example, would fall into this category, as does the Franklin River dam," Mr Berinson said.

The Leader of the Opposition, Mr O'Connor, later accused the Premier, Mr Burke, and

Government of having "ratted" on WA.

He said that a victory for the Commonwealth in the case would be the final critical act of destruction of State independence.

The decision not to support Tasmania's stand over the dam was an act of treachery, Mr O'Connor said.

Mr Berinson's comments yesterday will not please the Tasmanian Premier, Mr Gray, who has said he will seek WA support at the convention during debate on the State-rights issue.

Mr Gray warned in the weekend that there would be grave implications for WA if the

State Government did not oppose the actions of the Federal Government.

Mr Berinson said that WA would not intervene in the High Court proceedings over the dam because a number of States were already directly involved.

Issues

He believed that all the relevant issues would be fully canvassed without WA's involvement.

Mr Berinson said the High Court was the proper authority to judge the complex issues involved in the Franklin dam case.

But it did not follow that success by the

Commonwealth in the High Court would mean the end of all States' rights.

Statements which had been made to that effect were extravagant and unjustified, he said.

Mr O'Connor said that State Parliament should be recalled at once to debate the dam issue.

"No less than the future of WA, its Government and people are at stake," he said.

"If political power over the development of the State is to pass from WA hands to the majority populations of Sydney and Melbourne, it ought at least be done by referendum of the people."

New World Heritage Legislation

Melbourne THE AGE in English 6 May 83 p 3

[Article by Simon Balderstone]

[Text]

CANBERRA. — The controversial World Heritage Bill passed through the House of Representatives last night, with members on both sides expressing strong anti-dam feelings.

Almost half the Opposition speakers in the long debate said they did not want the dam built. But despite some strong speech from Opposition members against the Gordon-below Franklin dam, none of them voted with the Government on the bill, designed to firm up laws against destruction of World Heritage areas and bolster the High Court attempt to stop forever construction of the dam.

Some Opposition frontbenchers and MPs had lobbied their Liberal and National Party colleagues to vote against the Government bill even if they expressed their anti-dam feelings during debate.

However, differences of feelings within the Opposition on the issue emerged clearly during the debate, with one Liberal frontbencher, Dr Harry Edwards, rebutting the Tasmanian Premier, Mr Gray, for statements about the issue.

The leader of the National Party, Mr Anthony, said that he did not want the dam built, but said the debate was about the fundamental rights of the States, and about an attack on those rights by the Hawke Government.

Several Opposition MPs may have voted with the Government if the bill was not so wide-ranging and Dr Edwards said the 16 amendments proposed by the Opposition were designed to "contain the thrust of the bill to world heritage properties and in particular south-west Tasmania".

None of the amendments was included in the bill by the House.

Dr Edwards (NSW) said the bill was a "virtual frontal attack on the Federal system" but said it would be sad thing if Australians formed the opinion that all members of the Liberal and National Parties, because of their concern about the shape of the bill, condoned the building of the dam.

He said many MHR and senators from the Opposition were strongly opposed to the dam and were convinced, as he was, that most Australians did not want the dam to proceed.

Dr Edwards said the attitude was broad-based. "It is not just the 'greenies', as some so vociferously proclaim, who hold that view," he said.

He said many, if not a majority, of Liberal members in the NSW Parliament held the view, as did the Young Liberal movement and the Australian and New Zealand Academies of Science.

Dr Edwards responded to the argument of Mr Gray, that employment in construction of the dam was important to Tasmania by saying that "to construct a dam for that purpose would surely be the most perverse and expensive make-work program one could possibly conceive".

He said he also wanted to set straight something Mr Gray said in a "rabble rousing" speech to the Constitutional Convention last week. Mr Gray had mentioned Libya and Colonel Gaddafi as being connected with the World Heritage Committee, and Dr Ed-

wards pointed out that other members included France, West Germany, Italy, Switzerland and the US.

There was no question of these substantial Western powers being lent upon or, out-manoeuvred by the Libyans and Bulgarians referred to by Mr Gray, he said.

A Liberal frontbencher, Mr Ruddock (NSW) said he was also against the dam. But said the cavalier and reckless way the Federal Government had pursued the increase in Commonwealth power had heightened the chance of the dam being built. He said he may have supported the bill at a different time, but said it was "precipitate" and he would vote against it.

The former Minister for Environment, Mr Wilson (Lib. SA) spoke at length on the wilderness and heritage values of south-west Tasmania, said the bill was "very bad" because of its wide powers.

● Forecasts by a Federal Government department have cast further doubt on claims by the Tasmanian Government and the Hydro-Electric Commission that the proposed Gordon-below-Franklin dam is essential to meet power requirements.

The National Energy Advisory Committee, the Federal Government's senior independent energy advisory body, has revealed in a report that the Department of National Development and Energy forecast an annual increase in electricity consumption in Tasmania in the years 1990-91 which is only two-thirds the HEC forecast.

Tasmanian Ban on Campers

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 2 May 83 p 3

[Text]

THE Tasmanian Government has banned camping near the Gordon River to hamper the work of conservationists, according to the Tasmanian Wilderness Society.

Signs had been erected proclaiming the ban on camping within 1000m of the river, a society spokesman, Mr Chris Harris, said yesterday.

The society predicted the State Government would

probably try to evict the conservationists still stationed at the Gordon River.

Mr Harris said the ban had been imposed since the conservationists sent a full kit of photographs showing the destruction caused by work at the site to politicians and the media.

"If the Government had nothing to hide it would not try to evict them."

CSO: 5000/7581

REORGANIZATION OF VICTORIAN FORESTRY BODY PROPOSED

Melbourne THE AGE in English 4 May 83 p 10

[Excerpts]

The State Government will radically restructure the Forests Commission after a task force report which found that the authority did not adequately involve or consult the public.

The first independent review of the commission in more than 60 years found that the commission was too centralised, lacked a modern financial management system, and had no sustained commitment to public consultation.

The report by a Ministerial task force recommended a shake-up of management and organisational structure, planning procedures, and staff recruitment.

It also called for the rewriting of the Forests Act to ensure greater public involvement in planning, and the replacement of the three-member commission by a chief executive.

The Minister for Forests, Mr Mackenzie, tabled the 71-page report in State Parliament last night.

The report also found that the commission had not successfully adjusted to a political environment in which it faced attack from conservationists.

The report said there had been thorough documentation of the "secretive and reactionary image" of the commission in a report to Mr Mackenzie on the commission's public image. "The review team fully supports the conclusions of the report and believes that many of its recom-

mendations are in line with practices already favored by field officers," the report said.

Also released yesterday was a State Forests Department report called "Preferred Options for Development of Wood Production in Victoria".

This report recommends the State's annual pine planting program be cut from 4500 hectares to 2000 hectares, as part of a major reorganisation of forestry practices.

It stresses clearing of native forests for pine plantation should be minimised, and calls for the Forests Commission to renegotiate existing commitments to large softwood industries, promising allocation of forested public land for new plantations.

The report says softwood users, including Australian Paper Manufacturers Ltd and Australian Newsprint Mills Ltd, should be asked to modify and redefine their timber requirements.

Leasing of private land by the Government for pine plantations should also be investigated, and financial incentives offered to stimulate commercial tree growing on private land.

Generally, conservation groups have welcomed the report, voicing few criticisms.

The director of the Conservation Council of Victoria, Mr Peter Browne, said he was concerned at a proposal to allow intensive hardwood logging in the Errinundra plateau in east Gippsland.

CSO: 5000/7581

AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

GRAIN LOSSES--Fourteen days of non-stop rain have left a \$30 million disaster for Queensland graingrowers. They have lost at least \$25 million in standing crops and damage to farm machinery and soil erosion will cost another \$5 million. The graingrowers will need carry-on loans to survive until their next crops. But the good news is that they can look forward to bumper future seasons following thorough saturation of the state's farmlands. The short-term loss has hit growers of soy and mung beans, cotton and safflower. The soy and mung-bean crops are a write-off and the central Queensland sorghum crop, an important export earner, has been destroyed. [Ken Blanch] [Excerpt] [Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 6 May 83 p 1]

QUEENSLAND DEVELOPMENT--Public protests against property developments at Currumbin and Coolangatta on the Gold Coast have been applauded by the Environment Minister, Mr Hewitt. Mr Hewitt said the reaction of residents to the proposed Currumbin Creek development, sub-division plans adjoining the Currumbin Bird Sanctuary and a resort development on Schnapper Rocks at Coolangatta, was a healthy sign. "It indicates there is strong community feeling for rational development which enhances rather than detracts from the charm of the Gold Coast," he said. "Perhaps the most frequently heard criticism is about the concentration of high-rise home unit buildings in the Surfers Paradise area," he said. "The loss of foreshore open space and natural vegetation to commercial development, particularly home units, was a very fortunate planning mistake. Thankfully, the planning mistakes of the past are being learnt." [Excerpts] [Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 6 May 83 p 18]

RIVER SALINITY TEST CASE--An appeal against a licence allowing a South Australian company to discharge 170 tonnes of salt into the Murray River each year was an important test case for the River Murray Commission, the Minister for Resources and Energy, Senator Walsh, told the Senate yesterday. Adelaide wool merchants G. H. Michell and Sons were granted the licence by the Victorian Environment Protection Authority last week. An Australian Democrats senator from South Australia, Senator Janine Haines, had asked Senator Walsh if he believed it was appropriate for one State to be able to make decisions detrimental to another State. Senator Walsh said that no particular government had power of direction over the commission, and that the present case was an important test of its powers. "However, to put

the company's case into perspective," Senator Walsh said, if I remember correctly--and the load varies from year to year--the river carries down a total of about one million tonnes (of salt) a year. "So while not wishing to trivialise the matter, it's a very minor addition to the existing load." [Text] [Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 6 May 83 p 9]

VICTORIAN ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORITY--The State Government is considering big changes to the Environment Protection Authority, including stiffer fines and public access to court cases. The Minister for Conservation, Mr Walker, is believed to have received a report recommending significant structural and legislative changes to the authority and its role several weeks ago. It is believed the report also recommends changes to the EPA's investigation functions. The report was prepared by a former member of the New South Wales Pollution Control Commission, Dr Daryl Lacey. [Text] [Melbourne THE AGE in English 7 May 83 p 13]

2,4-D LINK TO ANIMAL DEATHS--Southport.--Some Albert Shire residents fear that the herbicide 2,4-D was responsible for a spate of animal deaths in the Mudgeeraba area recently. Mrs Julie Dodds, of Mudgeeraba, said two cats, a neighbor's dog and three magpies died two days after chemicals were sprayed near her street. "When our two cats got sick, I took them to the vet to see what he could do," Mrs Dodds said yesterday. "After going through all the possibilities, we concluded that it must have had something to do with the council using the chemical." Mrs Dodds said other nearby residents had noticed that animals died or became ill shortly after the herbicide was used near homes. The Albert Shire Council chairman, Cr Bill Laver, said concerned residents should complain to the Australian and National Health and Medical Research Council, which controls drugs, herbicides and poisons. [Brett Free] [Text] [Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 5 May 83 p 31]

THREATENED HERITAGE SITES--The Australian Heritage Commission not unexpectedly opposes construction of the Franklin dam in its 1981-82 annual report tabled in Parliament yesterday. The commission says the scheme would degrade the wilderness and destroy one of the most important archaeological sites ever discovered in Australia. The report was tabled in the House of Representatives on the eve of the introduction of legislation backing a High Court injunction against the construction of the dam. The commission says the proposed flooding of the Kutikina cave containing Aboriginal relics dating back 20,000 years was the greatest current threat to the Aboriginal national estate. Dams also threatened the natural wilderness at Apsley in NSW and the Russell River National Parks in north Queensland, it says. It also lists mining, woodchipping and real estate development as major threats to the environment. Mining threats were occurring at Moreton Island and in the Etina caves in Queensland, on the Great Northern Plain in Tasmania and in the jarrah forests of Western Australia. Forestry threats listed included rainforest logging in northern NSW and on the Windsor Tableland in Queensland and woodchipping in north-east Tasmania and in the karri forests of Western Australia. It says 78 species of Australian flora were now listed as extinct and more could die out if urgent measures were not taken to preserve habitats. [Text] [Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 4 May 83 p 5]

RAINFOREST EXPLOITATION--The Queensland Government had adopted a "scraping the barrel" approach to exploit the last remnants of the state's

irreplaceable rainforests, it was claimed yesterday. The Rainforest Conservation Society said the government intended to use that approach until public opinion forced it to change its mind. It called on the government to produce a comprehensive policy on rainforests that truly reflected their biological value and people's wishes. Its president, Dr Aila Keto, said: "Logging is transforming magnificent rainforest areas into what look, from the air, like moth-eaten carpets. From the ground, the gross erosion and land despoliation that have come from logging are even more obvious." Rainforest was being clearfelled as close to Brisbane as Kilcoy. The same kind of fate was in store for the Downey Creek catchment near Innisfail and, the society understood, for nearby rainforest in the Russell River area. [Bill Ord] [Text] [Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 3 May 83 p 16]

CSO: 5000/7582

POLLUTION BILL DOOMED

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 27 Apr 83 p 5

[Text] Wellington--An Opposition bill designed to increase the penalties for polluting rivers and streams was introduced in Parliament yesterday but is unlikely ever to become law.

The Government did not oppose the introduction of Dr Michael Cullen's Water and Soil Conservation Amendment Bill, but opposed its referral to a select committee for further study.

The bill will now almost certainly languish at the bottom of the parliamentary order paper and be discharged at the end of the year.

The Minister for the Environment, Dr Shearer, said the bill would not solve anything. The problem with the existing legislation was not the amount of the fine, but the difficulty in securing a prosecution.

A full review of the present law was under way, but would take time for careful study, he said.

Dr Shearer said the private member's bill was nothing more than "an arrogant piece of paper."

Mrs Ann Hercus (Oppn-Lyttelton) said the Government had been promising a review of the legislation for seven years. It was time they actually did something to prevent the sort of pollution problems recently experienced in Taranaki.

Dr Cullen said it was not a matter of urgency to deal with the problems of spills.

The cost of "causing" spillages needed to be more than the cost of providing adequate measures to prevent them.

Under Dr Cullen's bill, the maximum fine for an initial pollution offence would have risen from the present \$20,000 to \$100,000 and penalties for continued offences would have risen from \$100 a day to \$500 a day.

CSO: 5000/4334

EDITORIAL PESSIMISTIC ON POLLUTION

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD 27 Apr 83 p 6

[Text]

At one end of the scale it can be an empty baked-beans tin; at the other, atomic waste. It is all superfluous to man's requirements, all discarded, all potential pollution unless dealt with in a proper way.

"We are fouling our own nest," says the astronaut Paul Weitz, who informs us that air pollution hanging over the earth is much heavier now than it was during his first space flight 10 years ago, and that it is "pretty much universal."

Its universality New Zealanders might once have been quick to question. Our air was clear, our beaches clean, our water pure, our ability to dispose of domestic rubbish and industrial waste limitless. The sky was infinite, the ocean unbounded. Or apparently so. We are less sure now.

Smog is no longer a rare phenomenon over our bigger cities. Even the winds of two seas that sweep the skies of Auckland offer no guarantee that our air will be crystal-clear.

The ocean no longer launders the New Zealand beaches as thoroughly as it once did, but smears them with a sediment of plastic wrapping and bottles and other rubbish. Controlled areas for the disposal of domestic and commercial waste grow

smaller and rarer than in the past. Experiences in Taranaki make us wonder if there can ever be any protection against poisonous outpourings from industrial accident or negligence.

Yet it has not been all retreat. In the past two or three decades the forces of anti-pollution have held the odd salient and even regained some of the territory lost in the distant past to man's thoughtless abandonment of that for which he has had no immediate need.

Six months ago an angler landed the first salmon caught in the Thames for 150 years, and fish have returned to other European rivers long regarded as little more than open sewers. The Manukau, even with its sewage ponds, is a far healthier harbour now than it was when waste was discharged heedlessly into its upper reaches.

But the tide has not turned; it is too early yet to claim that. Virtually all we have done so far is to recognise that there is a tide, and that it is running against us, as Paul Weitz has made clear. And until the safe and effective disposal of our waste becomes as important to us as the processes that create it, the tide will continue to run against us.

NEW RESTRICTIONS PLANNED ON LAND CLEARING, DEVELOPMENT

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 12 May 83 p 6

[Text]

Strict new regulations controlling excavation and clearing land are to be tabled in the House of Assembly this Friday, The Royal Gazette understands.

The regulations — which will be amended to the 1974 Development and Planning Act — will prevent land-owners from clearing trees and plants from their property without planning permission.

They will also prevent developers from excavating more land than required under plans approved by the Development Applications Board.

Planning Minister the Hon. Haskins Davis is also expected to table an extensive review of the 1974 Island Development Plan before a moratorium on the subdivision of open spaces expires at the end of this month. That plan — which follows a detailed Island-wide survey of open spaces — is now at the printers.

It is understood that plan prevents the subdivision of

any arable land in the future and gives planners a great deal more control over the subdivision of any land.

Questioned last night, Mr. Davis confirmed that amendments would be tabled this Friday, and said if he was unable to get the planning review to the House by May 31, he would extend the moratorium on sub-division.

Meanwhile, the National Trust has stated that the controversial housing development on a South-ampton hillside further illustrates that existing planning laws are defective.

Mr. Alan Dunch, chairman of the environmental committee, said the laws seemed to allow excavation without control on the part of Government.

He expressed hope that the new Development and Planning Act would monitor excavation and site clearance more stringently.

The Trust complained that the development over-

looking the Great Sound was so openly visible as to be ugly.

"No amount of landscaping is going to retrieve the inherent beauty that the land had," said Mr. Dunch.

At a meeting this week the environmental committee reaffirmed that the hillside bulldozing was "unfortunate from an environmental point of view".

Said Mr. Dunch: "It appears to have been done with planning permission, which is unfortunate."

He said objections to such developments would not be dropped. "We have to create an awareness that the laws are defective."

Mr. Dunch said he understood that rubble from the site excavation had been dumped over the cliff side and was destroying cedar trees.

The Planning Director would only reply that Mr. Dunch should contact him about any concerns he might have.

BERMUDA

BRIEFS

OIL SLICK PROBE--Marine experts were alerted yesterday when several 200-square-foot oil slicks appeared in St. George's Harbour--believed to be from the 4,000-ton freighter Alanje. The alarm was raised just after noon by Harbour Radio. Marine Police, as well as Bermuda Biological Station marine scientist Dr. Tony Knap, and marine surveyor Mr. Ron Ross, were called out. A full investigation into the incident will now take place. Samples of the oil, thought to be of a heavy, fuel or lubricant nature, will be analysed. Although the spill was regarded as quite serious, there was not thought to be any need for any clean-up operation. There may, however, be some slight shoreline and boat hull pollution as a result of the oil slicks. The Alanje put in for repairs at St. George's on Friday, having come from the Turks and Caicos Islands. If she is found to blame for the spill, the ship could face a fine of several thousand dollars. No-one from Meyer Agencies, agents for the Alanje, was available for comment last night. [Text]
[Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 16 May 83 p 1]

CSO: 5000/7580

WATER SHORTAGE WORSENS; CONTAMINATION INCREASES

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 16 May 83 pp 4, 27

[Text] Carlos Mora Mora, vice president of the Mexican Society of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering warned yesterday that the general substructure of Mexico City is in danger of sinking due to the overexploitation of its water-bearing stratum.

He said that in the Xochimilco area alone, experts from the department of the Federal District have detected an annual drop of 60 centimeters. Most endangered are the colonial and historical monuments.

The specialists analyzing the problem of the water supply and repercussions due to the lack of refilling of the water-bearing strata, considered the expediency that those responsible for the construction and operation of the systems abandon the strategy of the "pattern of waste" begun decades ago, since it is obsolete, wrong and difficult to maintain.

Among other factors that further complicate the situation is the population explosion and the lack of citizen awareness, owing to the concentration of the population and economic activity in certain regions of the country. For the year 2,000 the demand in Mexico City will be 120 cubic meters a second, while in Monterrey it will be 30 cubic meters a second.

He stated that the poor distribution of the hydraulic resource is also a very unfavorable factor. More than 70 percent of urban industrial activities in the country are established at more than 500 meters above sea level, while only 15 percent of the water resource is found at that altitude.

He added, that "traditional remains" of supply and sewer services predominate: subsidies to the services because consumers are not used to paying the actual cost of the services.

Mora said that as for the quantity and quality of water supply to the population, the results are not very encouraging.

Concerning the quantity, it is enough to mention that overall only 50 percent of Mexicans have piped water, not necessarily drinkable. Only 30 percent possess a sewer system, not counting the Federal District.

As for the quality of the liquid, he cited as an example the state of Tlaxcala, where the Secretary of Human Settlements and Public Works, made a study of 223 supply systems of which 72 percent satisfied physical-chemical conditions while 16 percent met the recommended bacteriological characteristics. It was found that 51 percent of the population defecates outdoors in the vicinity of the sources of supply.

He stated that this case is not exclusive to Tlaxcala. "It suffices to mention that the mortality rate from diseases originating in water is most considerable in young children and occupies a conspicuous place in the population".

He commented that according to studies on contamination, 70 percent of that occurs because solid or liquid residues come from some form of water.

Although we do not want to accept it we are re-using residual water or white water with solid residual or physical-chemical components that are incorporated mainly by rainfall to the river-bed used as a supply source.

Mora insisted, on the other hand, in reference to consumer patterns and waste of decades ago, to detach ourselves from them, since we have engulfed ourselves in a vortex that threatens our environment and the availability of resources that nature offers us in abundance.

In similar fashion he deemed it necessary to reinforce the policies of urban and administrative decentralization, contamination control, distribution of resources, development of technology appropriate to the present and necessary to the nation, in addition to the participation of the community in solving the supply problems and economic self-sufficiency of the supply systems, gradually eliminating the subsidies.

9989

CSO: 500/2035

AIR POLLUTION IN CAPITAL EXCEEDS ACCEPTABLE LIMITS

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 17 May 83 p 5 A

[Text] Air pollution in Mexico City has exceeded the limits of human tolerance and the greatest contamination is recorded in the districts of Iztacalco, Venustiano Carranza, Gustavo A. Madero, Azcapotzalco and Cuauhtemoc, according to the count of high concentrations of suspended particles.

In the south, the percentage of ozone is higher due to the photochemical process present in the atmosphere of the valley and to the north-south direction of the prevailing winds, the Ecology Commission of the Federal District reported yesterday.

The result of the pollution can be seen in the decrease in visibility, in the changes in the microclimate--variations in temperature mainly--in the greater incidence of solar radiation, in the impact on the soil of acid rain and in the deterioration of the flora.

Regarding air quality, the commission pointed out that 75 and 20 percent of the measurements of suspended particles and ozone exceeded the criterion of 275 g-m^3 in the first square of the city, Palacio de Minería, and at the Ciudad Universitaria [University City] respectively.

Regarding ozone, it is estimated that 50 percent of the data obtained on its concentration in recent years exceeded the tolerable amounts.

According to the commission, 130,000 industrial complexes, 30,000 of which are in the Federal District, contribute to the air pollution in the Valley of Mexico. Among the most polluting industries are the Azcapotzalco refinery, the thermoelectric, cement, smelting, cellulose and paper, soap and detergent, fertilizer and board plants.

Other sources of atmospheric pollution are the 2.2 million vehicles circulating at average speeds of less than 15 km per hour, and natural sources of the same problem are the dust storms that occur during February and March.

9545

CSO: 5000/2034

MEXICO

BRIEFS

CAPITAL CITY NOISE POLLUTION--Mexico City, 8 May--Suburban buses, especially those using diesel, are the noisiest, according to studies by experts who with the aid of "sonometers" and "decibelometers" have measured the acoustic contamination levels in the cities of Naucalpan, Nezahualcoyotl, Ecatepec, Los Reyes la Paz etc. The buses exceed 90 decibels which is the maximum allowable under the ordinance established by officials in the capital. The medical society of the Valley of Mexico accused state transit officials of failing to penalize the permit holders, much less revoking their license plates and imposing fines on the lawbreakers. Dr Francisco Camacho Lacroix, president of that organization, said that the other vehicles that exceed the 90 decibel limit are motorcycles especially those with an unmuffled exhaust. In conclusion, our informant states that Col Juan German Anaya Velazquez has not taken any administrative action against the bus drivers of the Valley of Mexico for being "the noisiest in the world." [Text] [Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 8 May 83 "Metropoli" suppl p 9] 9787

CSO: 5000/2033

AL-BARDAWIL LAKE SUFFERS FROM ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 21 Apr 83 p 6

[Article by Jamal Kamal: "French Study Warns: Al-Bardawil Lake Is In Danger; 850,000 Pounds for Development and Result Is Blockage of Straits"]

[Text] Al-Bardawil Lake has become the subject of discussion among all the citizens of North Sinai. The lake is one of the world's largest, with an area of 6,000 [square] kilometers, and has the lowest salinity among the world's lakes. It can produce a vast fortune for Egypt.

But 4 years after regaining the lake, the situation is totally different.

A French study conducted on the lake over a period of 3 months within the framework of a grant to develop the lake has revealed that the lake has deteriorated in a manner that threatens it with disaster.

The study defines the dangers threatening the lake as follows:

Blockage of one of the straits, which is considered one of the main factors affecting the number of fish. The other strait is about to be blocked and to collapse.

The drop in the volume of fish caught. This totaled 2,093 tons over a period of 8 months in 1976 and then dropped to 939 tons in 1979, rising to 1,241 tons in 1981 after the late President Anwar al-Sadat instructed Eng Mashhur Ahmad Mashhur to dredge the lake. The volume has dropped once more, amounting to 4 tons daily this year even though the lake's daily production capacity should be 60 tons.

The increased salinity of the lake, which has caused some kinds of fish to abandon it for the Mediterranean Sea and other kinds to die.

The growth of weeds and moss in the lake due to the lack of water circulation. This obstructs fishing operations and kills fish and their eggs.

The lack of a clear plan to develop the lake and the absence of any fish farms or projects to enhance the lake's resources.

The lack of any sanitary facilities in the lake port. As a result, the catch is either dumped on the sand or on zinc or lead sheets which adversely affect it.

Closure of the lake [to fishing] for 6 months instead of 4 months, thus causing 3,000 fishermen to remain idle during this period, especially since they are prohibited from fishing in the Mediterranean.

Warning of Blockage

Accountant Muhammad Yusuf 'Abid, chairman of the lake's board of directors, said:

The problem of the lake is exemplified in the threat of blockage of the straits connecting the lake with the Mediterranean as a result of the collapse of their banks due to the tide and to the accumulation of the sand that Israel deposited in the middle of the straits when it departed, especially since the lake has not been dredged since 1967.

The present condition of the straits poses a danger. Sands have encroached and blocked one of the straits, leaving only 55 meters of its mouth open, even though the mouth of the strait is 200 meters wide. The sands have also blocked 100 meters of the mouth of the other strait, which is 300 meters wide. This blocks the flow of water for a distance of 35 kilometers, a flow that brings in fish from the Mediterranean and washes the lake annually.

But Who Is Responsible?

In reply, the chairman of the board of directors, said that his task is to regulate fishing, check the type of fish nets used, market the fish to companies, fight smuggling and fishing by youths, inspect the straits and collect a fee of 60 piasters from the fishermen for every kilogram of catch in order to develop the lake. Revenues from this fee in 2 years totaled 850,000 pounds, which have not been used for development.

The Ministry of Agriculture's Fish Resources Agency started getting involved in the lake's affairs only last year when it allocated 500,000 pounds for dredging the straits, with the sum to be withdrawn upon completion of the work. But the dredging work lagged for several months and then the ministry refused to allocate any additional sums.

The chairman of the board of directors added:

The problem is not one of allocations or of responsibilities but rather a problem of the Suez Canal Authority and its companies. Last December, an agreement was reached with al-Timsah Dredging Company to dredge an area 100 meters long, 8 meters wide and 4 meters deep to clear the sand accumulated in the straits in return for a fee of 1 pound per [cubic] meter. It was agreed that the dredging work would be completed in 6 months, whereas an entire year passed with only 200 [cubic] meters dredged. This is why the Ministry of Agriculture disavowed its responsibility and refused to appropriate any other sums. Besides, the dredgers broke down at the mouths of the straits because they had been brought without having undergone any maintenance.

The governorate made an offer to the Suez Canal Authority to purchase a large dredger capable of clearing the lake in 1 week. But the authority objected on the grounds that a large dredger would damage the straits.

The governorate then concluded a contract with the Canal Authority to build a dredger at a cost of 1.1 million pounds to dredge the straits and the authority designated a 400-horsepower dredger to do the work. But what can we do when the dredging requires at least a 1,000-horsepower dredger? Consequently, the dredger used by the authority broke down and the straits have remained untouched.

Solution in Building Wharfs

When the Canal Authority's dredgers failed to dredge the lake, the authority was compelled to resort to another kind of action, namely, to conduct studies.

It conducted a 5-month study on the lake straits which cost 80,000 pounds, and it is now conducting another study on building wharves and determining the impact of waves--a study that has cost 100 [thousand] pounds. Neither of the two studies has come up with any specific conclusions on how to save the lake!

The chairman asserted that the only way to save the lake is to build four wharves, each of which will cost half a million pounds, and to allocate 2 million pounds for dredging the sand.

Other Problems

The lake's problems are numerous. Closure of the lake for 4 months annually to allow young fish to grow idles the fishermen, who operate 1,000 fishing boats, throughout this period.

The regulations of the cooperative supervising the lake prohibit the farmers from marketing their catch directly. The catch has to be delivered to the cooperatives concerned with the fishermen's affairs, which then deliver the catch to the cooperative supervising the lake to market it any way it deems fit!

The cooperative in charge of the lake markets the catch to 3 public sector companies and 8 food security companies. These companies refuse to buy every kind of fish caught. This is why the governorate has concluded contracts with 24 local companies on the northern coast and in al-'Arish. These companies, in turn, conclude contracts with merchants in Cairo, Alexandria, Port Sa'id and Damietta.

At least 30 percent of the lake's catch, with a minimum of 3 tons daily, is supplied to the North Sinai Governorate. But at times the governorate is denied its share due to the small volume of the catch and because of the governorate's commitment to contracts with the companies and merchants.

The governorate cooperative purchases fish from the fishermen for 120 piasters per kilogram of al-Buri fish and 110 piasters for (al-Danis) fish. The governorate deducts from the price 5 piasters for the services fund, 5 piasters for the cooperatives and 60 piasters for development of the lake.

Fishermen's Problems

Reviewing the fishermen's problems, Shaykh Mubarak Saliman, chairman of al-Bardawil Lake Northern Coast Cooperative, which includes 10,000 fishermen as members, said:

Foremost among the numerous problems is the problem of the number of permits that have to be acquired to engage in the profession. There are 38 permits that the fisherman has to acquire. Another problem is that of prohibiting the fishermen from fishing at sea when the lake is closed for fishing. There is also the problem of the low prices, considering that the governorate cooperative purchases fish from the fishermen for 120 piasters per kilogram and sells it for 290 piasters per kilogram, with the merchant in Cairo selling it for 4 pounds per kilogram.

Moreover, the governorate cooperative refuses to allow the fishermen to deal with the merchants directly, thus causing them to lose large profits.

The governorate 2 years ago raised the price of the fish it sells in order to develop the lake. However, the fishermen cannot demand that the price paid for their catch be raised, even though the lake has not been developed and even though there are tens of boats that return daily with a catch of no more than 1 ton.

The Ministry of Agriculture has also failed to offer any services to the two cooperatives existing in the governorate, other than imposing on them a large number of civil servants who receive recompense from the budgets of these two cooperatives.

The agricultural banks demand that a cooperative transfer its capital to them as a condition for providing them with loans at an interest rate of 7 percent, with the interest deducted from the loan when it is turned over to the cooperative. This is why the cooperatives have not received any aid or loans from the Ministry of Agriculture or from its banks.

The cooperatives purchase the nets and the [boat] motors and pay 5 piasters in expenses [to the services fund] for every kilogram of fish caught but the governorate cooperative still refuses to include the fishermen in social security, thus threatening their lives and the future of their children.

Ministry in Charge

Suhayr Jalbanah, People's Assembly member representing North Sinai, puts the blame for what has happened and is happening on the minister of agriculture and on the ministry's Fish Resources Agency. Even though al-Bardawil is one of the world's biggest lakes, the minister of agriculture knows nothing about it, the governorate's Agricultural Affairs Department is not aware of the extent of the danger and the fishermen stand perplexed between the Canal Authority's dredgers and the Ministry of Agriculture's imaginary aid.

'Abdallah Nafi', director of North Sinai agricultural affairs, defends the Ministry of Agriculture, saying: The ministry's agency last year allocated 500,000 pounds for the lake but no use has been made of the sum so far. The dredgers are doing their work as they should [as published] and the ministry has offered its services to the fishermen but they refuse them.

He asserts that the French study was received by the Agricultural Affairs Department only 20 days ago "and we are now studying some of the recommendations included in the study."

8494

CSO: 5000/4611

POLLUTION PROBLEM DESCRIBED; ACTION URGED

Karachi DAWN in English 27 May 83 Magazine p II

[Article by Kaleem Omar]

[Text]

If you stand on Karachi's Bunder Road during peak traffic hours and are foolish enough to breathe deeply you are probably running the risk of choking to death on the fume-laden air.

The story is much the same in many other parts of the city. Pollution levels are soaring. The Lyari River — and calling it a river is like calling a murderer a naughty boy — is a stinking, slime-green channel overflowing with chemical wastes and human excrement.

Factories located in areas like the Sind Industrial Trading Estate, Landhi and Korangi (all of which are now well within Karachi's city limits) spew thousands of tons of pollutants into the atmosphere each year. The city's aging fleet of taxis, rickshaws, buses and trucks trundle up and down Karachi's roads belching diesel fumes and carbon monoxide into the lungs of the population. Areas like Orangi, Old Golimar and Lyari Quarters are little more than disease-ridden cess pools totally lacking in even the most basic hygienic amenities.

Deathtraps

There are no emission laws, no industrial pollution standards, no environmental protection agencies. The economic elite, ensconced in its air-conditioned houses, goes its traditional uncaring way. The poor continue to rot.

Similar scenes meet the eye in other Pakistani towns and cities. Large sections of Lahore, Hyderabad, Faisalabad, Sialkot, Gujranwala, Peshawar and Rawalpindi have been reduced to the kinds of slums where the filth and consequent human misery almost defy description.

The old city in Lahore, for instance, is an amalgam of the most appalling conditions.

Open gutters overflow into streets. Sanitation is nonexistent. Slop pails full of human excrement continue to be dumped onto the area's sunless lanes and alleys, sometimes only narrowly missing the unwary passerby. Hundreds of the old country's structures are virtual deathtraps, collapsing with tragic frequency during the monsoons.

If there is a fire, the LMC's fire engines often cannot get through, many of the old city's streets being too narrow to permit this. We call ourselves a civilised nation, a people with an old history and culture, but millions of Pakistanis are trapped in an existence that is not even sub-human.

For more than two decades now, there has been growing international concern about the damage that is being done to the environment and major remedial measures are underway in many countries.

Rachel Carson, in her seminal book THE SILENT SPRING, warned twenty years ago that unless industrial pollution of the atmosphere, lakes, river and

streams was not immediately checked the process could become irreversible, leading to blighted landscapes not fit for human occupation.

Since then, hundreds of thousands of dedicated scientists and researchers all over the world have been engaged in devising methods to check and roll back the damage done to the environment by industrial pollution and large-scale urbanisation. And it can be rolled back, given the new methodology and anti-pollution laws effectively enforced.

There are many notable examples of this kind of success in the fight against pollution. London's smog — a foul mixture of smoke and fog — used to be notorious, occurring with clammy regularity each winter.

In 1956 Britain passed a Clean Air Act which imposed rigorous smoke emission standards. Effective enforcement of the act showed what can be done. Today, London's smog is a thing of the past. The sky above the city — and other cities throughout Britain — are free of polluting

smoke. Telltale marks of sooty grime are no longer de rigueur on the Londoner's shirt collar. In the city's parks and gardens, the English rose blooms as freshly once again as it did in Shakespeare's day.

At a meeting addressed by Mr. Digvijay Singh India's Union deputy minister for the environment, Delhi's metropolitan council last month announced the setting up of an environment forum. Mr. Singh said that such legislators' environment forums had already been set up in U.P., Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan,

Gujrat, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh and more would be set up soon.

550 members of various state legislative assemblies and councils have joined these forums. The purpose of the environment forums will be to fight water, air and noise pollution and improve the environment. Mr Singh said that Rs. 4,000 crore needed to be spent to tackle the problem of sewage in the 225 Indian cities with populations of more than 100,000 each.

Mass campaign

In Pakistan, however, the case for the environment is going by default. According to an international survey carried out recently, Pakistan ranked 105th amongst U.N. member countries on the physical quality of life index. Official and public apathy on the subject suggests that we have every intention of remaining where we are on this scale.

Government policies on the environment are non-existent. Public awareness on the subject is next to nil and nothing is being done to change the situation. In fact, the very concept of protecting the environment—or, it seems at times, that there isn't even such a thing as the environment—does not exist in Pakistan. The levels of noise, air, water and other urban pollution that people are prepared to not only tolerate but virtually wallow in is truly amazing. It's as if the filth and pollution has entered our souls, becoming, we seem to think, a necessary part of our being.

What is needed, of course, is a national environment policy, with effective anti-pollution laws and standards enforced by an Environmental Protection agency. Equally vital, is the launching of a mass media advertising campaign designed to bring about public awareness of environmental issues and the introduction of courses on the environment throughout the nation's school and college system.

The time to act is now. Not in ten or twenty years time. If we don't, there is no way we can stop this country from eventually becoming one gigantic slum, as far away as it is possible for anything to be from the green fields of Eden. The technologies are all known. The experiences of other countries can also be drawn upon. What is needed is the will to act. And that, without awareness, is the hardest thing to come by.

FAMINE THREAT TO BANTUSTANS REPORTED

Paris LE MONDE in French 27 May 83 p 5

[Article by Patrice Claude: "Famine Threatens Certain Bantustans"]

[Text] Southern Africa is not only suffering serious political tensions and armed conflicts produced by the permanency of racial segregation in South Africa, as Pretoria's attack and the South African raid into Mozambique point out. The serious drought which southern Africa is suffering from this year, along with the Sahel area and the large Pacific islands, is creating numerous victims and is provoking a catastrophic food shortage, as our collaborators Patrice Claude and Jean-Pierre Langellier report.

Johannesburg--Summer has ended in South Africa. For the whole northern part of the country¹, where the main portion of intensive cereal production is concentrated, it is the end of hope. Unless a miracle occurs, the corn harvest, the basic foodstuff and principal export product of the agricultural sector, is expected to fall [to] about 4.5 million tons compared to 12 million tons in a normal year, and even 14.6 million for the exceptional 1980-1981 season.

From an average of 400,000 tons, the sunflower seed harvest will be reduced to about 240,000 tons, and sorghum is estimated at 169,000 tons, compared to 550,000 tons in 1980, and even 700,000 tons in 1979. For the nation's accounts, the drop in earnings is estimated at nearly 2,000,000,000 rands (1 rand equals 6.50 FF), or 10 percent of the budget, without counting the innumerable effects brought on by the drought (higher prices passed on to all sectors.) The cereal export contracts with neighboring states and Taiwan have been cancelled, and the country is preparing to import 1.5 million tons of corn from the United States to meet internal consumption.

The consequences of the scourge for the 10,000,000 rural blacks, who essentially live off their subsistence agriculture, are almost impossible to delineate with certainty, due to a lack of statistics. In certain "independent" bantustans, the threat of famine is real, and the leaders of these "reserves" are sounding the alarm, without always being heard.

The chief of Gazankulu, one of the bantustans located in the extreme north, near the Mozambique border, estimates that half of his 500,000 citizens will not survive the winter without massive food aid. More than 15 percent of the 400,000 head of cattle in this bantustan have already died from starvation, and several thousands more are about to succumb. Likewise in neighboring independent Venda, half-starved animals are sold on the hoof at less than 35 francs a head.

Eleven thousand rural families in Kangwane (another bantustan), located next to Swaziland, which also finds itself in an alarming situation, are preparing to spend the winter almost without a harvest. "The coming months could mean the end of our people," stated Mr Enos Mabuza, the leader of the reserve. The authorities in Lebowa are expecting a tripling of the diseases of poverty (kwashiorkor, German measles, typhoid, cholera, gastroenteritis, etc.), and a skyrocketing increase in infant mortality which already is affecting 270 to 400, depending on the rural black area, compared to 14 among whites.

Desperate Situation

In Ciskei and Transkei, independent reserves located in the northeastern part of Capetown province, the situation has been termed "desperate." Pretoria has earmarked 13 million rands in emergency aid to be shared among these bantustans. Bophuthatswana, whose five pieces of territory adjoin Botswana, is in no better position, and has had to take out an emergency loan of 9 million rands. In all, the South African government has set aside a budget of 100 million rands to combat the shortterm effects of the drought, but the main portion of these funds is used to aid the business concerns belonging to the 70,000 white farmers.

Humanitarian organizations, churches and the Institute for Race Relations (a private anti-apartheid organ) have set up campaigns against hunger mostly financed by private donations. In Kwazulu 100,000 children depend entirely on these organizations to survive. So much for the direct victims of the scourge.

In the big cities reserved for whites and those blacks carrying special passes, the water restrictions imposed by almost all municipalities (except those in the extreme southern part of the country) affect, for the moment, private swimming pools--only those newly built can be filled--gardens, where watering is forbidden five days a week, and cars, which must be washed with a bucket and no longer with the garden hose, under penalty of fine.

However, other more draconian restrictions are foreseen since a 465-megawatt electrical power station, located in Natal, had to be stopped last week due to lack of water, and since the water supply in eastern Transvaal has been reduced by 40 percent. Escom (Electricity Supply Commission) uses barely two percent of all the water consumed in South Africa², but not only are most of the thermal power stations located precisely in the region

hardest hit by the drought (eastern Transvaal furnishes about 80 percent of the country's electricity), but even the partial stopping of the turbines would obviously have enormous consequences on all economic activities.

Now most reservoirs in the central and northern parts of the country are two-thirds empty. The native-wide fullness rate of these reservoirs has dropped to less than 40 percent, compared to 54 percent in 1982 and more than 65 percent in a normal period. Several tens of millions of rands have been invested in the digging of wells, but half a million of them already exist, and the underground resources which contribute one-ninth of consumption for now are not unlimited. Salvation can only come from heaven.

Arid or semi-arid, depending on the region, the "least African country in Africa" is getting used to its current condition with great difficulty. According to the Ministry of the Environment, the annual average precipitation is 464 mm, but about one-fifth of the country receives less than 200 mm of rainfall per year and, to make matters worse, the extraordinary number of hours of sunshine that South Africa enjoys adds to the phenomenon of evaporation and deprives her of most of her rainwater.

Moreover, taking evaporation into account is not limited to making stockpiling operations above ground hazardous. It reduces to nine percent (compared to a worldwide average of 31 percent) the part of precipitation which goes to swell the rivers. The total flow of all the rivers of South Africa (bantustans included) is estimated at about 52 million cubic meters, or almost the flow of the Rhine at Rotterdam.

Other than hauling icebergs from the Antarctic to Durban--a solution advocated by some--or installing sea-water desalinization plants along the coasts--a costly method being considered--the authorities are relatively unarmed in face of this scourge. The last great drought lasted six years and culminated in 1966, but the present drought, according to the minister of the environment, easily surpasses it in its scope and is more comparable to the one in the 1930's.³

FOOTNOTES

¹The north receives its maximum rainfall in summer, especially from January to March, the extreme north in January and the mid-section in March. Only the coastal strip running from Capetown to Port Elizabeth receives rain year-round. The western maritime side from Capetown to the Namibian border receives rain in the winter, from May to October.

²National annual water usage is estimated at 25 billion cubic meters and breaks down as follows: domestic use, 14 percent; industries, 8 percent; Escom, 2 percent; irrigation, 72 percent; cattle and national parks, 4 percent.

³This drought culminated in 1933 and 1934, years during which hundreds of thousands of heads of cattle were lost.

USSR

COMMISSION ORDERS MINISTRIES TO IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION EFFORTS

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Apr 83 p 2

[Article: "Commission Meeting"]

[Text] The Commission for Environmental Protection and Rational Use of Natural Resources of the Presidium of the USSR Council of Ministers held its regular meeting on 28 April. The measures implemented by the USSR Ministry of Power and Electrification, the USSR Ministry of Timber, Pulp and Paper, and Wood Processing Industry, the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs, the USSR State Committee for Forestry and the RSFSR Council of Ministers associated with environmental protection and rational use of natural resources during the construction of the Boguchanskaya GES were examined in this meeting.

It was noted that these ministries and the RSFSR Council of Ministers failed to promptly implement the nature conservation measures foreseen for the reservoir of the Boguchanskaya GES by the power plant's engineering plan for construction.

To eliminate the lag in implementing the nature protection measures, the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs and the USSR Ministry of Timber, Pulp and Paper, and Wood Processing Industry were ordered to complete all timber felling and clearing operations in the reservoir zone within the established time, the USSR Ministry of Power and Electrification was ordered to hasten construction of waste treatment plants in the city of Kodinsk and at industrial facilities of the Boguchanskaya GES, and the RSFSR Council of Ministers was ordered to take steps to insure prompt development of new agricultural land to replace that flooded by the reservoir.

The USSR State Committee for Forestry, the USSR Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources, the USSR Ministry of Agriculture and the RSFSR Council of Ministers were instructed to intensify control over nature protection measures being implemented in association with construction of the Boguchanskaya GES.

The issue of developing cooperation between the USSR and CEMA countries in environmental protection and rational use of natural resources was also examined at the meeting. Mention was made of the great amount of work done by the ministries and departments in fulfillment of the 1981-1985 general expanded program of cooperation among CEMA countries in environmental protection and improvement.

The State Committee for Science and Technology was ordered to take steps jointly with interested ministries and departments to raise the effectiveness of this cooperation; in particular, it must make sure that work on the most important problems of environmental protection and rational use of natural resources are included in the plans and programs for international cooperation, turning special attention to the creation and introduction of new kinds of production equipment that satisfy the requirements of nature protection, and low-waste and wasteless production processes.

The meeting was addressed by commission chairman I. T. Novikov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

11004

CSO: 5000/119

UKRAINIAN OFFICIAL INTERVIEWED ON USE OF DONETSK OBLAST NATURAL RESOURCES

Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 19 Apr 83 p 4

[Interview with D. I. Protsenko, chairman of the State Committee of the Ukrainian SSR for Protection of Nature: "Multiplying the Wealth of the Earth"]

[Text] A recent meeting of the Donetsk Oblast aktiv for the protection of nature adopted an appeal, "the protection of nature--our common, nationwide cause." Its participants called for more persistently developing the struggle for the implementation of the plans of the 11th Five-Year Plan for comprehensive and efficient utilization of natural wealth, assimilating 44 million rubles' worth of capital investments in 1983 for these purposes, recultivating and submitting for agricultural use 620 hectares of land, and increasing the effectiveness of water purification and dust removal installations.

The board of the State Committee of the Ukrainian SSR for the Protection of Nature and the Presidium of the republic council of the Ukrainian Society for the Protection of Nature approved and supported the initiative of the Donetsk nature protection workers.

A PRAVDA UKRAINY correspondent met with the chairman of the State Committee of the Ukrainian SSR for the Protection of Nature, D. I. Protsenko, and asked her to answer a number of questions related to the organization of efficient utilization of nature in the republic.

[Question] Dina Iosifovna, wherein lies the value of the initiative of the Donetsk workers?

[Answer] It seems to me that the very name of the appeal, "the protection of nature--our common, nationwide cause," is remarkable. Indeed, under modern conditions successful organization of efficient utilization of nature requires constant attention and coordinated efforts of local soviets of people's deputies, management agencies of environmental protection services, scientific institutions, labor collectives and the broad public.

This is precisely what we see in the example of Donetsk Oblast. Recently a good deal of work has been done here to mobilize the workers to implement the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and the May and November (1982) Plenums of the Party Central Committee. A comprehensive plan of basic measures for protection of the environment in the oblast under the 11th Five-Year Plan is being consistently fulfilled. It was approved by a session of the oblast soviet of people's deputies.

Last year the oblast performed all the basic kinds of work for the protection of nature. The Donetsk area was declared the winner of the republic socialist competition for the achievement of the best indicators for the protection of nature and won the Challenge Red Banner of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Ukraine, the Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers, the Ukrainian trade union council and the Central Committee of the Ukrainian Komsomol. It is very good that in response to this high award the environmental protection workers of the oblast are striving to achieve new goals.

[Question] What specifically from the experience of Donetsk Oblast in the organization of the work for protection of the environment deserves broad publicity and dissemination in other oblasts of the republic?

[Answer] First of all I should like to say that the oblast has arranged effective control over the assimilation of funds allotted for measures for the protection of nature. These issues are regularly considered by party agencies and at meetings of ispolkoms of city and rayon soviets of people's deputies. A special oblast staff has been created, which once a quarter analyzes the course of the assimilation of capital investments. Measures are taken on the spot to rectify shortcomings.

This was immediately reflected in the fulfillment of measures for the protection of nature. In 1982 7.5 million rubles (105 percent of the plan) were assimilated for protection of the environment in the oblast, including 43.6 million rubles' worth of state capital investments (104 percent). Capital investments in measures for the protection of land and water resources and the atmosphere were completely assimilated. The effectiveness of the operation of water purification and dust and gas removal installations increased. The atmosphere was improved in the cities of Donetsk, Gorlovka and Kramatorsk, and the water became cleaner in the Kal'mius, Krynka and Torets rivers.

It would seem that the experience in controlling the assimilation of funds and carrying out measures for the protection of nature could be extensively utilized in other oblasts of the Ukraine, especially Kiev, Cherkassy, Vinnitsa, Chernigov Zaporozhye and a number of others, where for two years of the five-year plan they have failed to assimilate considerable volumes of capital investments for purposes of protecting nature.

The experience of Donetsk Oblast in implementing a comprehensive plan of state agencies that control the fulfillment of measures for the protection of nature is also interesting for the republic. This plan is being approved by the oblispolkom, and the coordination of the efforts of all services for protecting the environment is the responsibility of the oblast inspection team for the protection of nature. Last year all points of the plan were fulfilled.

One should also mention the fact that science plays a most important role in organizing efficient utilization of nature in the oblast. Under the leadership of the Donetsk Scientific Center of the Ukrainian SSR Academy of Sciences, the regional scientific and technical program, Donbass, has been developed. Within the framework of this program are 40 subjects concerning the protection of the air basin, 22 concerning the protection of the bodies of water, and 11 concerning recultivation of land, which are being carried out by more than 200 institutes, associations, enterprises and organizations.

At the suggestion of the Donetsk Oblast inspection team for the protection of nature, the course of the implementation of the program was considered at a meeting of the interdepartmental scientific and technical council for environmental protection which was created under the oblispolkom. Additional measures were adopted for the implementation of the program and the introduction of scientific developments into production.

[Question] Apparently these issues are crucial not only for industry, energy and transportation, but also for agriculture and the entire agro-industrial complex?

[Answer] Of course. For Donetsk Oblast is characterised not only by a powerful industry, but also by highly developed agriculture. Under these conditions problems of protecting the productive areas are very crucial. It is no accident that it was precisely in Donetsk Oblast that the patriotic initiative "Save and Value the Land!" was originated. It has found unionwide support. In the Donetsk area during 10 years 40,000 hectares of land which were previously not utilized productively enough were brought into agricultural circulation.

The question of environmental protection in the process of agricultural production is now crucial for all oblasts of the Ukraine. It is directly related to the implementation of the USSR Food Program. This includes carrying out the anti-erosion complex, protecting small rivers, protecting the soil from pollution with toxic chemicals and neutralizing the wastes from animal husbandry complexes. In order to solve these problems in Vinnitsa, Donetsk, Rovno, Chernigov and a number of other oblasts, positions of deputy chairmen of kolkhozes and directors of sovkhoses for the protection of nature have been introduced on all the farms. This practice has been fully justified.

Finally, one cannot but mention the fact that in the Donetsk area the results of the efforts of state agencies are multiplied because of the support of the oblast organization of the Ukrainian Society for the Protection of Nature with its 1.5 million members. They have created 3,500 public control posts here at industrial enterprises, construction sites, kolkhozes and sovkhoses.

Thus the initiative of the Donetsk workers has far from only local significance. This is also shown by the support which it is receiving during discussions in many labor collectives of the republic. Extensive dissemination of this experience will contribute to steeping up the work for protecting the wealth and beauty of our native soviet land.

PROTECTION OF UNIQUE RESOURCES OF CRIMEA DISCUSSED

Moscow TRUD in Russian 28 Apr 83 p 2

[Article by K. Sytnik, vice president of the Ukrainian SSR Academy of Sciences, chairman of the scientific council of the Ukrainian SSR Academy of Sciences for problems of the biosphere: "The Crimea for Everyone"]

[Text] Statistics confirm that in the past 20 years the number of people vacationing in the Crimea increased 10-fold, and by the year 2000 it could reach 20 million people a year. But the whole problem is that the therapeutic possibilities of the Crimea are being used irregularly and far from completely.

One does not need to be a specialist in order to guess about the lack of uniformity of the flows of people to the Crimea, depending on the season. In the majority of cases these are unorganized vacationers, "unofficial ones." And it is understandable that the "peak" season comes during the warm summer months. This creates many difficulties in efficient utilization of the therapeutic capabilities of the region and reduces the level of municipal, transport and trade services for those who come here. In spite of the measures that have been taken, pollution and the gas content in the air in the zone of the health resort complexes of Yalta, Alushta and Yevpatoriya are increasingly marked, and they increase in direct proportion to the influx of unorganized vacationers and automobile tourists. At the same time, the southeastern, eastern and western coasts, whose therapeutic qualities are just as good as those of the northern coast, still remain a "health resort virgin land."

The therapeutic air is miraculous from Alushta to Feodosiya, from Perekop Yevpatoriya, and in the region of the Arabat spit and the Kerch peninsula on the Azov Sea. The sea is cleaner here. But, after all, it is much more difficult to get here in the summer than to Yalta. And where does one live and find food? There are no good roads, there are not enough dining rooms, there are no purification installations, and there are extremely few sanitoriums and holiday hotels. So the people go to the over-equipped traditional health resort places. The problem of exhausting the ecological capabilities of the southern shore of the Crimea, which is now experiencing a maximum load, has already risen to its full height and today is becoming one of the major factors that impede the development of sanitoriums and health resorts of the oblast in this region.

Industrial enterprises cause a great deal of harm to nature, above all enterprises for extracting minerals and chemical industries. In this respect the most crucial situation has arisen at the Saks health resort. As a result of the activity of the chemical plant and the Soyuzdoprom association here, the Saks therapeutic lake has been subjected to the danger of silt. This lake is used extensively for mud treatments for people who are seriously ill.

Located in the sanitary protection zones of health resorts are many industrial enterprises and other facilities that are not directly related to satisfying the needs of people who come here for therapy and rest. The problem of removing them is one of the most critical ones.

Environmental protection and maintenance of the ecological balance in the Crimea require a complex of large-scale and efficiently coordinated measures. Suffice it to say that in the oblast many sources of harmful discharges to the atmosphere are not equipped with purification devices, and the existing gas and dust removal installations do not operate effectively. At the same time the monetary funds allotted for these purposes are not fully assimilated. Just in 1980, for example, about 15 million rubles were not utilized.

One of the most critical problems that impede efficient assimilation and augmentation of the natural treasurehouse of the Crimea is departmental separation, which does not make it possible to utilize material resources with the greatest efficiency. One cannot be surprised: after all construction and installation work is carried out here by 12 union and 19 republic ministries and departments with their 223 local, mainly small construction and construction-installation administrations.

The majority of the sanatoriums are constructed by the departments. But up to this point they have not developed or legislatively reinforced the mechanism for their effective participation in the development of health resort cities or therapeutic and social-cultural facilities of the oblast. They have not determined health resort territories that are to be built up first, which also frequently transformed valuable landscapes of the Crimea into permanent construction sites. This is why it is so critical to create in the oblast a powerful specialized construction and installation association for comprehensively building up the entire southern coast of the republic's health resort zone. Such an association would be responsible for construction not only in the Crimea, but also in the health resort zones of Odessa, Nikolayev, Kherson, Zaporozhye and Donetsk oblasts. It could be created on the basis of existing construction combines, transferring to them the corresponding subdivisions of all ministries and departments.

No less constant attention should be given today to other issues related to the life of the unionwide sanatorium as well.

The Dnepr is wonderful, mighty and beautiful even today. The water from this river, the largest in Europe, which flows into the Black Sea today amounts to 52 cubic kilometers a year. Naturally this has an influence on the quality of the therapeutic resources of the Crimea, especially its northern and western coasts. A similar influence is exerted by the Dnestr and the Danube. One cannot but take this into account. The more so since the water taken from the

Dnepr for industrial and agricultural purposes as well as the discharge of unpurified wastes into the river increase each year. At the same time the flow of water on the whole is decreasing because of the large-scale drainage measures that are now being conducted in the Poleskaya lowland.

Especially "zealous" in this area are ships of the USSR Ministry of the Maritime Fleet and enterprises of energy and ferrous metallurgy, the USSR Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry, Ministry of the Food Industry and Ministry of Light Industry which function in the Dnepr basins. For example, a number of enterprises of the USSR Ministry of the Food Industry do not have effective installations for purifying industrial waste. The picture is similar at plants and factories of other departments. At the same time these ministries are not taking comprehensive and concrete measures for reducing pollution of the waters of the Black and Azov Seas as is required by the corresponding decree of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers.

In our opinion, one of the primary conclusions to be drawn from this situation is the following. First of all it is necessary to plan and resolve the problem of creating industrial enterprises and businesses similar to them throughout the entire coast of the Black (above all the northwestern part) and Azov seas with mandatory accounting for and implementation of measures for efficient utilization of nature and protection of this zone of the republic.

In a word, the problems of protecting, restoring and efficiently utilizing the unique resources of the Crimea require a more responsible scientific and comprehensive approach to solving them. Only thus can one protect and multiply the wealth of the natural jewel of our country.

11772

CSO: 5000/117

SHALLOWNESS OF SMALL RIVERS CAUSES CONCERN

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 May 83 p 3

[Article by I. Bogdanov, editor of the oblast newspaper GOR'KOVSKAYA PRAVDA: "On Native Shores--The Press and Aspects of its Effectiveness"]

[Text] A letter arrived at our editorial offices from Urenskiy rayon. Its authors, local residents, were expressing their alarm that the Usta river, its tributaries the Temta and Vaya, and several others had suddenly started to grow shallow. It turned out that land reclamation specialists were primarily responsible for this: without thinking they drained thousands of hectares of forest marshes and peat bogs, which serve as natural regulators of the water level in rivers. A considerable amount of damage was also done by the unsystematic clearing of forests along the river banks.

A correspondent visited the area and wrote an article with the title, "And Next the Volga Will Dry Up", which elicited a lively response from the readers. The statements made by the newspaper were discussed at a meeting of the oblast council of the All-Russian Society for the Protection of Nature. The decision was made to put dozens of lakes, rivers and marshes under the society's protection.

But the discussion about the newspaper's statements did not end here. Responses continued to come in. The article seemed to take on a life of its own. After its publication, the number of letters that touched upon questions of environmental protection in one way or another increased noticeably. We needed, of course, to react to this, and at least start writing about nature regularly and not just when specific cases arose. The idea came up of creating in the editorial offices a special department for environmental protection issues.

About five years have passed since that time. The department has become firmly established in the pages of the newspaper. Now it is in essence the same kind of "fighting unit" as the other regular departments. A circle of authors has grown up around the department that includes scholars, specialists, writers and nature lovers. The directions of the work have been defined. Environmental protection issues have become a main focus of the newspaper. In addition to special correspondents and articles, we have also started to put out regularly, once a month, special pages devoted to "Nature

and People", and for more complex problems, we conduct investigations and "operations". Some of the newspaper's campaigns have received a broad response.

One of these "operations" was directed at reservoirs. Nature has generously endowed the earth below cities with reservoirs. In the oblast there are about 600 large and small rivers alone, with a total length of over 30,000 kilometers, and there are over a thousand lakes and ponds.

A considerable amount is being done to protect and make rational use of this wealth. This work was intensified particularly after the well-known decree of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers on protecting the Volga and Ural river basins. More than 100 million rubles were spent during the 10th Five-Year Plan alone on water protection measures in the oblast. Industrial enterprises have started to show more concern about building purification equipment and some have converted to a closed water-supply cycle. On small rivers work is being developed more extensively to restore old and build new dams.

But it is still too early to say that the residents of Gorkiy Oblast are treating nature with the proper respect. There are still far too many cases of a careless, negligent and sometimes even barbaric attitude toward nature. It is the reservoirs that are the most vulnerable, and small rivers in particular. We started an "operation" on the small rivers. We devoted a special page to the largest inland river in the oblast, the P'yana, whose basin covers the territory of several rayons. True, she still hasn't lost her blue color, but she has already called for help: in many places the river has been filled up with silt and has grown shallow.

An abnormal situation has also developed in several other small rivers. For example, the Kud'ma, which flows indirectly into the Volga, has become so polluted by drainage from tanning enterprises that there is a question whether it can be saved or not.

Does one need to say that this has an unfavorable effect on fish stocks, that they are growing scarce? The fishing suffers not only from polluted rivers, the poachers also cause a great deal of damage. The small boat fleet has grown to excess--launches and motor boats literally congest the river pools even when fish are spawning. It is hard to overestimate the significance of fish-breeding for realization of the Food Program. A special page was devoted to materials on this very important sector of the economy, entitled "The Wealth and Poverty of the Fields of Blue".

The stands taken by the newspaper on the problems of small rivers and the development of fish-breeding have become a subject of discussion of the ispolkom of the oblast Council of People's Deputies. The ispolkom prohibited construction and exploitation of livestock-breeding facilities, mineral fertilizer warehouses and industrial enterprises in water protection zones without implementation of the necessary protective measures. Steps were outlined for the improvement of a number of rivers that have been damaged, including the P'yana and Kud'ma. The ispolkom also adopted a resolution that puts strict

limitations on the traffic of launches and motor boats on inland waters, and it is completely forbidden on some rivers now. Judging from the letters from readers, Gorkiy Oblast residents welcome these measures. We have plans to continue operation "Reservoirs" in the future.

In the large industrial centers of the oblast, such as Gorkiy, Dzerzhinsk, Pavlovo and Balakhna, it is not yet possible to eliminate completely the dumping of untreated industrial wastes into rivers, even though considerable means are being spent toward this end. The best solution to this problem would be universal implementation of a waste-free production process and conversion to a closed water-supply cycle. But unfortunately we still have only isolated examples of this. The development of new manufacturing methods is proceeding slowly and treatment installations are being built with great difficulties. This is sometimes the fault of the enterprises themselves, but more often it is due to lack of attention to this matter on the part of ministries.

An example of this is the delayed construction of treatment installations in Dzerzhinsk and Balakhna. It is difficult to say who is more to blame here: on the one hand, the clients--the USSR Ministry of Chemical Industry and Ministry of Timber, Pulp and Paper, and Wood Processing Industry--allocate means for their enterprises to build treatment installations, as a rule, in miserly amounts, and on the other hand, the contractor, the USSR Ministry of Construction, tries to find any possible reason not to burden itself with such projects. It is difficult to imagine that the construction projects will ever be finished. Also to blame here is the RSFSR Ministry of Housing and Municipal Services, which is not taking measures to step up construction of the second stage of treatment installations for the city of Gorkiy. The newspaper has written about all of this, but alas, without results.

Environmental protection is not limited, of course, to concern about the purity of water reservoirs. Of primary importance in our oblast, which is crossed by gorges and ravines, is the struggle against soil erosion caused by water and the washing away of fields. A number of organizations are dealing with this matter quite thoroughly. In our article, "Taming a Monster", we told about the work done at the Bogorodsk Interindustrial Timber Farm, whose collective managed to stop 700 ravines and saved almost 6000 hectares of farm land.

For several years we have regularly informed our readers about the work of the Zatonskiy Timber Farm, that has accumulated a wealth of experience in complex forestry management. On almost every "Nature and People" page, you can find some discussion of issues involving air quality.

The formation of a special department for environmental protection has made it possible to expand the range of topics covered and to diversify the newspaper's organizational work. Recently, on the initiative of the department's activists, rural meetings were called in Varnavinskiy rayon to discuss environmental protection issues.

In conclusion, one problem should be mentioned, especially since it is one that any local newspaper could encounter. We often have to write about issues whose success depends on ministries and departments. We sometimes criticize them, and we believe that we are justified in doing this. If our criticism gets some reaction in the oblast, departments are usually silent. This is what happened with our statements about construction of treatment installations. Why do the leaders of the industries keep silent? Is it because there are many of us, local papers, that is, and only one ministry? After all, there are special services there, in particular the press centers that were created recently, whose job it is not only to write about the ministry's activities, but also to keep track of what is being written about the ministry elsewhere. The leadership of the industry should be kept informed. I don't know, maybe they are being informed, but we are not getting any responses.

9967

CS0: 5000/125

NATURE PROTECTION COUNCILS ACT FOR PROTECTION OF MOSCOW AREA SMALL RIVERS

Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 21 May 83 p 3

[Text] Specialists from the Moscow Oblast Nature Protection Council have started preparations for implementing an unusual program. They have decided to attract a broad circle of activists to help improve and clean up small rivers in the Moscow area.

They do not even show up on all the maps of the oblast. Only on a very detailed map of the Moscow area can one follow their course, designated by a fine blue line. It seems that the small rivers are in no way remarkable, they are no longer than 200 km, they are not involved in shipping, but they attract the constant attention of everyone concerned with the protection of nature. After all, our small rivers are the sources of the most famous and deep waterways. Specialists from the Moscow Oblast Nature Protection Council have decided to recruit Muscovites to help carry out an important task: improving the health of these rivers, improving the facilities on their banks, and making them convenient for recreation.

There are over 340 of them in the territory around Moscow--these small blue ribbons that follow a meandering course. Information about each of them can be found in some unusual documents, the rivers' passports. These passports were compiled by workers at the Land Reclamation and Water Management Administration. The most vital information ended up in the documents: the length and course of the river, a diagram of its basin, and the size of its floodlands. Also indicated are the enterprises or farms that use its water and in what way they use it, data from hydrochemical analyses, and information on the points at which experts are carrying out observations on the river's condition. A list has also been compiled of the organizations that cause pollution of the water in small rivers, and on the basis of this list, a plan for building treatment installations and improving the water quality has been developed. The plan goes up to the year 1985.

The state has put small rivers under its protection. There is a provision for water protection belts between 100 and 300 meters wide along river banks. On the land directly adjacent to the river, it is forbidden to use poisonous chemicals for industrial purposes, to build industrial enterprises or parking lots for motor vehicles. Large masses of people using small rivers for recreation can also cause damage.

The Council's activists have conducted a whole series of investigations of small rivers. They became familiar with the condition of the Severka, the Lopasnya and the Rozhayya in Domodedovskiy rayon, the Neznayka in Odintsovskiy rayon, the Chalvenka in Chekovskiy rayon, and others. They reached an agreement with forestry workers about the volume of work that needs to be done first in order to clean up the banks and river bed and improve and prepare tourist recreation areas. The program is being organized so that not only specialists will be brought in to carry it out, but everyone who loves nature and is concerned about its health. The plan is to carry out the majority of the work on people's days off.

Since the banks of these rivers are often visited by tourists, there are plans to equip the recreation areas for hiking groups, with fireplaces already built in, so that the hikers do not mar the entire riverbank with campfires. Some of the most labor-intensive work will be cleaning the riverbank area of various trash, branches and tree stumps.

An important task here is to make clear to Muscovites how carefully one must treat the small rivers, whose health has already been impaired. Specially designed tourist routes that will be marked along the way will help accomplish this. Signs with the necessary information will be set up along the most popular pathways. It has also been decided to put up signs indicating what is prohibited in the water protection zones.

9967

CSO: 5000/126

GROUP OF SCIENTISTS PROPOSE ECOLOGICAL ACTION PROGRAM

Munich SUEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG in German 20 May 83 p 8

[Article by Martin Urban: "Program Against the Death of Nature"]

[Text] Today in Bonn, a group of scientists will hand over to Federal Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann "Arguments and Requirements for an Ecologically Oriented Environmental Protection Policy." It involves the final report of 3 and a half years of work. The inter-disciplinary group was appointed in 1979 by the federal interior minister and the federal minister for food, agriculture and forests. The "project group Ecology Action Program" was led by Bonn biologist Prof Hartmut Bick. Belonging to the group were more than 50 unpaid scientists in various working groups. In four hearings each lasting several days, they, in turn, questioned experts from science and enterprise, as well as representatives of industry, commerce and agriculture. In a summary, we are publishing the most important findings and proposals of the 180-page report.

The Ecology Action Program that has now been submitted involves four problem areas:

- Protection of species and environments
- Ways to an environmentally compatible agriculture
- Economy and ecology
- Regional planning and ecology

Because everything is related and therefore "linear thinking," the extrapolation of short-term trends into the future, does not lead to an understanding of reality, the authors of the study have sought "a different way of thinking and planning," namely, thinking in terms of automatic control systems. They find the pattern for human action in an analogy to living systems.

One conclusion of the scientists is that "ecology is long-term economy." Another is that "consumption, however it is seen, in the final analysis is nothing more than the conversion of valuable economic goods into wastes.

In this sense, sooner or later the entire social product comes back to humanity as waste." Mankind, in its "fascination with producing," seems to have forgotten that.

Everything Too Late for Many Species

Nature knows no problems with wastes but carries out perfect recycling. Man's production and wastes, on the other hand, threaten to destroy nature and thus man's bases for life as well.

As a result, of the 2,667 known species of indigenous and introduced ferns and flowering plants in the FRG, more than 30 percent are extinct or endangered, according to the commission's stocktaking. Further, it is said that because of their dependence, 10 to 20 animal species disappear with the extinction of a single plant species. In the FRG, for example, 55 percent of the mammals, 44 percent of the birds and 67 percent of the reptiles are considered to be extinct or endangered. Of the approximately 29,000 indigenous species of insects, only a fraction--3,715 species--have even been investigated in terms of whether they are endangered. One-third of the species studied should probably be considered endangered. In the opinion of the authors, immediate measures to protect species and environments are a prerequisite for an ecological action program to make any sense at all. Their "being carried out within the next 10 years will determine whether it is at least possible to save most of the animal and plant species still living. Even then, for many species the required measures will come too late."

Above all, as seen by the project group, it is necessary to link together the islands of the more or less intact world. In this respect, important tasks would fall to agriculture, to the communities with "public greenery" and to the private gardens. The ecologists see chances for the future only if the soil is not further sealed and poisoned and if all manner of technical measures are permitted only after meeting tests for environmental compatibility.

First of all, however, substantially more "islands" need to be created and linked together. In particular, the scientists demand that the remaining areas of all environmental types existing in the FRG be charted, analyzed and maintained in a concentrated network "that will insure the exchange of genetic potential and the survival of migratory species." These environmental stocks need to be largely removed from other uses.

Above all, the still remaining and nearly natural sand flats region should be put under special protection. Means from the community function of "improving the agricultural structure and coastal protection" should no longer be provided for wide-area intervention in the sand flats. In addition, a "specific stress limit" should be set for recreation in the sand flats. The scientists also demand protective measures--against sports enthusiasts, tourists and the military, among others--for the high mountains that are analogous to those to protect the sand flats.

The project group demands: "All environments determined to be worthy of protection on the basis of ecological charting are to be given interim protection immediately after their registration (environmental protection requirement)." There may be no change in use pending a decision on protection.

In the protected areas, agrochemicals are basically not to be applied, and hunting and fishing may be permitted only "when population control of the animal species for the purpose of protection is not possible in any other way." And further: "Tourism is not to be permitted in the central zones of national parks, nature preserves and protected landscape components."

The ecologists consider it very important that the areas around preserves be protected so that no harmful influences emanate from there, through industrial emissions, traffic, construction, a lowering of the water table, fertilizers or the use of pesticides, for example.

According to the final report, nature preserves and national parks have heretofore comprised less than 0.9 percent of the area of the FRG, and even these areas would be massively influenced by road building and not least by the "ski tourism with its slopes and long-distance trails that destroy the protective forests and disturb the winter retreats of the animal world." The authors of the memorandum have calculated and documented that "about 10 percent of the area of the FRG must be given the status of national parks, nature preserves, large natural monuments, protected landscape components or natural forest cells."

But that alone would not save nature in its multiplicity. In the FRG, 54 percent of the area is used in agriculture. But it is here in particular that the ecological laws of nature are unpardonably neglected. Conventional agriculture has "a negative influence on the goals of protecting species and environments," states the memorandum cautiously. Criticized are the "cleaning out of the landscape by removing ecologically interlaced peripheral environments," the use of pesticides, ecologically senseless crop rotation, the excessive fertilization of agricultural areas, their borders and thus the waters as well, and the conversion of meadows into arable land. In addition to a reduction in the multiplicity of species and environments, modern agriculture leads to "a diminished ecological stability and an increased susceptibility to pests." It decreases the chances for integrated plant protection, makes the land susceptible to erosion and disrupts the water balance, according to the scientists' analysis.

For this reason, they demand that a network of peripheral and small environments be maintained or reestablished "to secure sustained production as well"--a task, then, for agricultural consolidation, which heretofore has contributed mainly to the destruction of ecologically necessary structures. "The use of pesticides and fertilizers is to be prohibited in these areas," the scientists demand. In general, they want to prohibit the use of plant treatment substances outside of agriculture along roadways, in public greenery and in backyards. For that purpose, the plant protection law must be amended.

In the future as well, extensively cultivated areas should not be intensively cultivated. There should not be a continuation of the lowering of the water table and of the sealing of rural areas with roads. The guidelines for promoting agricultural road building must be changed appropriately.

Similar requirements are set for the forest. The expansion of the forest highway network should "be limited to exceptional cases." In general, the memorandum demands that "in principle, no new highways should be built" in the FRG, which has "one of the densest traffic networks in the world." Roads that are no longer needed should even be broken up and recultivated.

No More Roads

"A further expansion of the capacity of the highway network is...not justifiable; even a consideration based on need leads to the realization that currently planned roads are not carried out until the still growing adult population of the FRG declines." Necessary, on the other hand, is the expansion of public local transportation, of the rail transport network and of bicycle and foot paths. All road margins should have an almost natural strip at least 4 or 5 meters wide as a peripheral environment. Mowing should occur once every 1 to 4 years to a distance of only 1 meter beyond the road margin.

In principle, pesticides should not be used in the forests, demands the action program. Forest stocks in congested areas should not only be maintained but should be expanded to the extent possible. But other environments worthy of protection should not--as a compensatory measure--be converted into forests. "About 10 percent of the forest areas in public hands (that corresponds to 1.6 percent of the area of the FRG) should be developed into 'natural forest environments' and must receive the protective status of nature preserves," the memorandum demands.

With the help of their action program, the scientists want to modify traditional agriculture quickly. To be sure, "currently and in the near future," it is not possible to do without chemical plant-treatment substances completely, but the ecological stress can be reduced very substantially, which will be explained in detail.

Sought are the development of pesticides that do not harm useful insects, a new manner of application, another form of soil cultivation and the preservation of peripheral flora and fauna. Further, the authors envision a prohibition of prophylactic spraying of poison in favor of the specific control of individual pests, if these should actually take over.

In their action program, the scientists also argue for an improved commercial classification based on ingredients that provide quality, "because heretofore many of the plant treatment substances used serve to improve the external quality of the product."

Excessive fertilization through the improper handling of liquid manure and through mineral fertilizers can, according to the study's results, damage the soil, lead to a concentration of contaminants and have a negative influence on the quality of foodstuffs. The ecology project group therefore proposes that overfertilizing be prevented either through taxes on commercial fertilizer or by establishing allowable application quantities (especially for vegetables and in winegrowing). In any case, fertilizing with nitrogen must be limited or forbidden regionally to protect the waters. A legal recourse against overfertilizing is already provided by the Waste Removal Law (paragraph 15).

The costs, for instance, for less intensive agriculture, to the extent that they are not already reasonable as a result of the social obligations of property, would not represent a burden for the taxpayer if the extremely expensive surplus production were avoided.

The protection of the soil is an essential goal of the ecological memorandum. The soil is not just a surface for building but a basis for life. For "the use of the soil and the related ecological consequences, the numerous individual daily decisions on construction applications, measures to expand infrastructural facilities and production changes in agriculture are more important than the intensely discussed large projects" (such as the western runway in Frankfurt, for example), stress the authors of the memorandum. They put the introduction of a soil protection law up for discussion.

In particular, they demand an amendment to the constitution to put through an ecology obligation of the soil (analogous to the social obligation of property). Also, the "interest in preserving territory must be legally actionable."

In accordance with their understanding of nature as a set of rules, the scientists believe that it is possible to trust in self-regulation and market mechanisms, as long as lawmakers consider ecological interests and consequences according to their importance.

Thus, for example, products and production methods that have little effect on the environment should receive a bonus; those that harm the environment should be penalized. In this connection, the project group argues in favor of the establishment of a foundation for enterprise testing analogous to the Product Testing Foundation. The new foundation would have the responsibility of testing--in accordance with the level of technology--to what extent production does not harm the environment, that is, saves energy and raw materials, for example.

The scientists characterize today's energy structure as "pathological." Above all, that is due to the unbridled appetite for energy, which to this day has been artificially stimulated. In this regard, they write: "It is ridiculous to speak of an energy shortage. Even established nuclear physicists such as Oakridge chief Alvin Weinberg now see the matter not as an energy gap that would have required the extension of atomic energy but

that an energy gap needed to be found to justify the existence of nuclear engineering. Energy consumption is not a God-given quantity."

Saving and Preserving Water

The authors of the study see development chances mainly in "small-scale integrated systems in the framework of a diverse, even craftsman's technology, which, nevertheless, is at a high level of inventiveness." Further work in three areas must have priority; it involves:

--Biological technologies for extracting raw materials, foodstuffs and energy

--Development of energy sources that are independent of raw materials

--Low-energy production technologies using recycling and combined processes

As the research group sees it, water resources policy must also be completely transformed, above all with the goal of more economical and sparing use. Among some criteria named: "Waste water removal should no longer consider the water network made up of streams and rivers as a transport facility.... The nearly natural water-periphery areas are to be kept in the entire existing scope. In addition, there is a need to return buffer zones in the peripheral areas of waters to a natural state....In the case of straightened streams, the rate of flow must be reduced through the reintroduction of meanders and different bank profiles and with as little artificial construction as possible to restore the natural environmental quality of these streams."

The authors of the ecological action program also reject this prevailing manner of waste treatment: "Required is increased recycling in waste removal, a reduction in the quantities of waste (the packaging area, for example) and if need be restrictions in the production of environmentally hazardous substances and in their production controls. Included is a prohibition on dumping environmental chemicals...."

The authors of the memorandum deal very critically with the subject of sports, for "as a manifestation of social mass reality, sports can quickly become an environmental burden."

Sports As an Environmental Burden

They assert: "To be sure, sports activities and the facilities that serve them do correspond to society's ideal image of a 'sportive,' active and perpetually youthful person as the pampered child of local policy in particular. But the results of such a model in the form of the area used are hardly recognized at all. Sports activities should therefore be promoted only where ecological interests are not adversely affected or where unfavorable conditions may even be improved."

As in the case of industrial settlement, the establishment of sports facilities will also be rejected where the ecological destruction is out of proportion to the benefits sought.

As the scientists document their own study, all of their demands "are based on a comprehensive system understanding. Here lies a key to overcoming the environmental problems." The authors of the action program give the politicians and those involved in administration ("who now often see themselves as mere cogs in a wheel and go the way of least resistance") courage for a new way of thinking and planning that is oriented toward dynamic operational structures and not toward rigid, single-cause individual relationships: "They can then take action again, because they and their advisors will have access to the larger relationship and thus to the appropriate arguments from various fields of interest."

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PAPER VIEWS PROBLEMS AHEAD FOR NEW ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY

Helsinki UUSI SUOMI in Finnish 27 Apr 83 p 2

[Editorial: "Start of Environment Ministry"]

[Text] A year ago the need for and establishment of an environment ministry was loudly debated. The loud debate led to the decision to create the new ministry and the new government is involved in almost the first efforts to implement it.

Apparently energies were exhausted in the principled debate since people have only to a very little extent been capable of getting interested in decisions relating to the ministry's really most important modes of operation. Nevertheless, during the next 6 months the decisions that have to be made will be more significant than the decision to establish the ministry.

The laws, statutes and executive decrees to be drawn up will affect the entire nation for the next few years and decades. Whether the Environment Ministry is regarded as a positive, sober and sensible addition to our administrative system or whether it produces a senseless and expensive bureaucracy and complicated and slow systems for supervising compliance and authorizing action will depend on how they are formulated.

In many cases a decision that is merely under consideration may mean tens and hundreds of millions of markkas in costs, which the economy, and indirectly all consumers, will have to pay for and which may to a great extent affect our whole rate of national development.

It is in everyone's common interest to see to it that the Environment Ministry does not through its own actions get into the same sort of situation the Job Safety Department in its time drifted into because of its excessive regulations and directives.

An example of this controversy is the renovation of Metsa-Botnia's Aanekoski plant, involved in which are the discharges from the old plant or location of the new plant somewhere else as opposed to extremely strict pollution-free requirements. The choice between environment, jobs and the ability to compete is an extremely difficult one and also demands courage on the part of officials.

This is why both the laws and statutes pertaining to the ministry and the officials chosen to carry them out must represent moderation, common sense and an attitude that takes the entire society into consideration.

The new government faces a difficult task in deciding on official appointments to the ministry since the posts to be filled are its own and the people who move into the new ministry and their positions will have to be taken into consideration as those who are to fill these posts.

The major government parties can scarcely avoid the politics involved in the contest and fill these posts only on the basis of competence. Party bias must not, however, be allowed to lead us into poor compromises when choosing candidates for these posts.

On the other hand, there are pressures that would lead to an almost one-party system in the new ministry. In that event the Social Democrats would get all the chief posts except that of head of the department. It is precisely in filling that post that administrative abilities must be posited as an unqualified priority in view of both party affiliation and environmental protection attitudes. Getting the new ministry into operation will above all require administrative experience and abilities.

The new ministry will certainly become the object of heavy pressures when it adopts positions on conflicts of interest between the different environmental movements and the nation. Expectations may be exaggerated, but hopefully the fears of trade and industry are just as exaggerated.

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COMMISSION WEIGHS BEST MEANS TO REMOVE PCB EQUIPMENT

Helsinki HELSINGIN SANOMAT in Finnish 19 May 83 p 15

[Text] Mikkeli (HS)—The threat to the environment posed by PCB compounds is rapidly being dissipated and the appearance of that substance in the natural environment is also diminishing. The chairman of the PCB Commission, set up by the Ministry of Interior, Prof J. Johan Lindberg, feels that this is evident. He believes that his commission's deliberations have resulted in certain proposals to the insurance companies' investigating committee to ban the use of PCB and gradually get rid of PCB equipment now in use.

In Finland the threat to the environment by PCB compounds popped violently into the public awareness last year in connection with the accident that occurred at Enso's Imatra plant. It is unique among the 26 PCB accidents that have already been investigated in Finland, in which it was also proven that dangerous products of the chemical transformation of PCB were formed.

To be sure, in the early 1970's they had already begun to restrict the use of this substance that is detrimental to people's health in terms of equipment other than condensers and transformers. At that time they also put a stop to the use of the substance in textile products.

2,000 Tons in Electrical Equipment

Altogether about 2,000 tons of PCB have been used in electrical systems in Finland in about 110,000 different kinds of condenser systems and 250 transformers. Furthermore, it is estimated that there are several million small condensers containing PCB in household appliances and other electrical equipment.

PCB compounds, or polychlorated biphenyls, are compounds that are as clear as water which are especially well-suited to be used as coolants for transformers and for other uses. Produced since the 1930's, the substance was also commonly used until the beginning of the past decade as an additive in rust-preventive paints, lacquers and joint compounds among other products.

PCB and other poisonous substances that appear in commercial compounds have been perceived to be particularly pertinacious in the environment. Prof Jaakko Paasivirta of Jyväskylä states that they become concentrated in the food chain

in sea eagles and gray gulls among other forms of life. These poisons have even been observed in salmon in the northern part of the Gulf of Bothnia.

Great Danger in the Event of Fire

In ordinary PCB accidents the products resulting from the chemical transformation of the substance cause the most serious damage. When the temperature in the environment rises to over 300 degrees, the compounds begin to break down, forming carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide and hydrogen chloride gas. It is precisely these that constitute a danger in the event of a fire.

While products formed due to chemical transformation have been measured in only one accident in Finland, labor hygienist Hannu Janhunen urges constant and great caution until it has been ascertained by measurements that transformation products have not gotten into the environment. In the case of some accidents that have occurred in the United States and Sweden they have had to engage in clean-up operations in which the economic feasibility of the whole clean-up has been questioned.

"In clean-up operations the amounts of PCB clinging to surfaces are reduced but they do not always get them down to the minimal values that have been established," Janhunen warns. Concrete surfaces heavily contaminated by the substance have proven themselves to be problematic.

PCB Not Used in New Equipment

According to Professor Lindberg, it appears that the problems created by equipment containing PCB have been noted in all the Western industrialized countries and the situation is being observed. "The main approach seems to be that this substance is not used in new equipment in these countries. Apparently with equipment destined for export the situation is different because the volume of PCB produced these past few years has been fairly large."

The threat introduced by PCB was investigated at a labor hygiene conference of current interest held in Mikkeli and organized by the local labor health institute of Lappeenranta.

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TURKEY

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COUNSEL SEEKS LAW ENFORCEMENT MEANS

Istanbul CUMHURIYET in Turkish 9 Jun 83 pp 1,11

[Interview with Refet Erim, Environmental Adviser to the Prime Ministry: "Those Who Pollute Will Pay the Penalty"; date and place not specified; passages enclosed in slantlines printed in boldface]

[Text] ANKARA (CUMHURIYET BUREAU) - /Refet Erim/, Environmental Adviser to the Prime Ministry, pointed out that the environmental law provides for a very comprehensive implementation, that the Office of Environmental Counsel would be otherwise unable to cope with the burden under actual conditions.

Refet Erim also pointed out that if the law was passed without the required articles, it would be very difficult to implement it. /"Our job has not ended with the law; on the contrary, it is just beginning"/ he said.

Erim said also that the most important principle introduced by the law is that of /"the polluter pays"/ and he answered our questions on the subject of what the environmental law brings.

[Question] /In Turkey pollution has emerged in every sector. Various efforts are made to prevent this but we believe they are inadequate. Will the new environmental law be broad enough to have the power to solve that?/

Erim: It is easy to draft a law. Problems are not solved by laws, implementation is important. However, the law brings new regulations which give hope. The most important one /"The polluter pays"/ which had been accepted by the OECD in 1970 but which was not included as a special provision because it did not fit in with our measures, has been introduced by the law. According to this principle, those who pollute or damage the environment are considered responsible for the damage caused by the pollution and deterioration regardless of circumstances. There is only one way to escape this responsibility: if the conviction is reached that every possible precaution was taken. This is a most important principle. Formerly every kind of planning and feasibility reports were only taking into account efficiency, marketing, energy, proximity to water, production, profits. No thought was given to the damage that an establishment founded on the basis of such evaluations could cause. Now responsibilities related to the environment are included when still at the decision-making stage. According to the law, establishments which have to dispose of industrial waste will be unable to do so beyond a certain standard. For example, establishments which have to dispose of

mercury, of detergents, will first build and run purification installations. If they fail to do so, they will not obtain the permit to operate their enterprise. This procedure will be continually monitored. An article related to this has also been included in the law. Industrial enterprises will keep daily quantitative and qualitative records of their waste. Something like the profit and loss records kept by a tradesman regarding what he buys and what he sells. These will be under constant controls.

[Question] /The law does not specify who is going to carry out those tests but.../

Erim: Yes, this does not exist in the law. That is, no new legislation is planned for this. According to the law, authority is given to the highest administrative official in the region. This will be regulated when the law on the founding of the Office of Environmental Counsel is passed.

[Question] /And if that founding law is not passed?/

Erim: It will be passed. It has its place in the decree relative to the reorganization of public administrations and institutions. At present, powers were granted to administrative authorities. It will be possible to stop establishments from working partially or totally, for a determinate or an indeterminate period of time, until the pollution ceases. After that, if danger from the standpoint of public health is perceived, the Office of Environmental Counsel will be able to rule also on a shut-down as a measure.

[Question] /There are also other penalties beside a shut-down in the law./

Erim: Heavy monetary fines ranging from 1,500 to 300,000 Turkish Liras will be imposed on those who do not abide by those prohibitions, who do not control their waste, who pollute the environment. These sums will be paid in cash. It is also possible to appeal. The law provides too for the inclusion of measures which will encourage expenses towards suppressing pollution. Thus new principles will be added to the incentives system. Those guilty of actions calling for fines will not be eligible for incentive credits.

[Question] / The maximum monetary fine is 300,000 Turkish Liras. For a very big establishment is this a truly heavy penalty?/

Erim: This is something subjective. Of course, 300,000 Turkish liras are not a big amount for a large enterprise. But we also have the even heavier penalty of stopping operations. Naturally, our aim is not to hinder production in industries. In any case, the problem cannot be solved by fines. The fines are only an additional deterrent.

[Question] /Do you really believe that with the implementation of the law which, as you pointed out, carries with it important principles, the problem will be solved?/

Erim: The law has been passed. However, if the regulations provided for by the law are not issued in the required manner they will be useless. It is essential that the regulations which will make implementation possible be issued within this year. Otherwise the law will become meaningless. Our work has not ended

with the law, on the contrary it is only beginning now.

[Question] /In the talk you gave on Environmental Day you mentioned the possibility that the Office of Environmental Counsel might be crushed by the law./

Erim: Yes, I said that. The law paves the way for a very extensive implementation. Because of this the Office of Environmental Counsel must be strengthened, reinforced. In its present condition the Office for Environmental Counsel cannot survive this law.

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